



Canadian Ecovillage Success



Kakwa Ecovillage's alpacas and land beneath the Rocky Mountains

Kakwa Ecovillage Cooperative in the Rocky Mountains of Canada, a community less than ten years old, is setting its roots in the local soil and developing its core community economic infrastructure.

It has gained organic certification for its 540 acre farm, established a successful clothing business using the

fibre from its own herd of 32 alpacas and llamas and is developing a sustainable education programme.

To date, this has provided workshops and farm stays for youths and on-site experience for local Montessori students.

Visit: www.kakwaecovillage.com or contact Russ Purvis at info@kakwaecovillage.com

Urban Gathering In The USA

The first Urban Ecovillage gathering, entitled Developing Urban Ecovillages: Towards Eco-cities, will be held in Chicago, 9-11 November 2007.

The event will focus on current and future urban eco-

village developments. Diana Leafe Christian (*Communities*) will be presenting and representatives from major US urban ecovillages will lead workshops.

For further information visit www.chicagolandsfutures.org

Kenyan Permaculture Ecovillage

2007 has seen the launch of Rodi Township Permaculture Ecovillage on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya.

The core aim of the community is to provide a nurturing learning environment for children, especially orphans and the destitute, and to enable them to tackle the challenges of employment after completing their formal education.

The core group that holds this vision has already set up a

school for disadvantaged orphans in the community.

The next step is to create a community vocational training centre to provide young people with skills. This will include a farm where the children will learn food-growing skills and contribute to the self-reliance of the community.

The community is seeking friends and financial supporters for details contact Alex Okello at: roditownship@yahoo.com



Children from the Rodi Township Permaculture Ecovillage, Kenya

Japanese Ecovillage Conference

Building on the success of the first Japanese ecovillage conference in Japan in 2006, a second similar event, Ecovillage Conference Tokyo 2007: Worldwide Ecological Communities and their Challenges in Japan, will be held on 23-24 November.

Guests include, Diana Leafe Christian (author and co-editor of *Communities* magazine), Giovanni Ciarlo (board of Global Ecovillage Network), Koji Itonaga (Director of Permaculture center Japan) and many others.

In Japan, about 135,000 rural and urban communities survive, but the process of globalisation is undermining them fast. In recent years,

there has been a resurgence in interest in protecting and revitalising the social and environmental vitality of these communities through such tools as rural re-settlement, eco-tourism, urban co-housing and co-operative schemes.

At the heart of the conference will be issues surrounding how to build and sustain ecovillages successfully in the Japanese context, and to present real life models of sustainable living based on respect for nature and our fellow human beings.

For further information, visit: <http://begoodcafe.com/main/project/ecvc> or contact: miyauchi@begoodcafe.com

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Tamera Ecovillage Offers Support



Members of the San Jose de Apartado peace village display their prizes

It is a busy time for the industrious folk at the Tamera ecovillage in southern Portugal.

On one front, there has been much work supporting their partner organisation, the Colombian peace village, San José de Apartadó, which recently won Germany's Aachen Peace Prize (see *PM*53) and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Skirmishes in the long-running civil war have recently claimed the lives of two members of the village (over 170 have so far died in the decade of the conflict). Tamera has been helping to raise the international profile of San José and win it support.

On the domestic front, Tamera has been working closely with the renowned Austrian permaculturist, Sepp Holzer, in a project to create lakes in the community as a

way of retaining water (see *PM* 53). With excavators, caterpillars, trucks and tractors, work is currently being carried out on roads, dams and various subsoil zones and embankments.

The community is seeking to undertake the work in as ecologically a sensitive manner as possible. In the words of a visiting Israeli naturalist: "I have never seen a construction site where one could feel that nature is being subjected to so little violence and disturbance as is the case here".

Finally, preparations are being made for an autumn peace pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine and a film has been shot about Tamera's Solar Power village. This is expected to be released in Winter 2007.

For further information, please contact Leila Dregger leila.dregger@snaflu.de

Ecovillages In Meditation Experiment

Nine meditations organised during the summer of 2007, in various points around the world, sought to demonstrate, with scientific support, that collective thought, if directed, can modify events.

The experiment was coordinated by two organisations known for their campaigns to promote a culture of peace in the world: the Laszlo Foundation, created by Scientist and Nobel Peace Prize candidate Ervin Laszlo and the Club of Budapest.

Numerous ecovillages participated, including the Federation of Damanhur which was chosen as a focal point for Italy.

Hundreds of thousands of people took part in the events. The effects of the experiment will be verified by a special research group lead by Professor Roger Nelson of Princeton University in the USA. The results will be verified by a team of scientists and then published.

For details contact: macaco@damanhur.it

First Gaia Grads

On 7 August 2007, Gaia University celebrated two major milestone events. It graduated its first five students and launched its first Regional Center located at Lebensgarten Ecovillage, Steyerberg, Germany.



Gaia's first graduates celebrate.

Beginning in October 2007 the new German Center will offer Masters degree programmes in Sustainable Money Design and Peace Management (in German).

The five German graduates received Master of Science and Post-Graduate diploma degrees in fields ranging from Social Communication and Conflict Management to Organizing Learning for Ecosocial Regeneration and Movement and BodyWork.

The ceremony was officiated by Professor Declan Kennedy, Chairman of the Advisory Board, the Deputy Mayor of Steyerberg and Gaia University founders Liora Adler and Andy Langford.

Four additional University centers are forming on the East and West Coasts of the US as well as in Spain, Portugal, Brazil and Nepal. The long-term vision for Gaia University is for the formation of hundreds of centers worldwide, which will permit people to study in their own language and create world change within their own cultural and physical context.

Students are able to self-design their learning pathway whilst being supported by an advisory network. They are able to produce sustainability outcomes while also engaging in promoting ecological and social regeneration, justice and peace.

For more information, visit: www.gaiauniversity.org

New Arts Centre



Findhorn's new Arts Centre

August 2007 saw the launch of the Moray Arts centre based at the Findhorn Foundation ecovillage, Scotland.

It is a monument to the vision and persistence of Randy Klinger and the team he put together. Almost one million pounds – from many private, public and corporate donors – has been raised to create the arts centre.

It comes complete with geothermal heating, photovoltaic solar panels, revolutionary low-energy lighting and state-of-the-art insulation. The centre aims to produce as much electricity as it uses.

The vision of the centre is firmly based in providing a space where artists in a wide variety of disciplines can cooperate in the creation of beauty. The project has a strong regional focus and aims to serve the entire Moray county (in which the ecovillage is located) and beyond. Local and Scottish national government bodies are active partners in the project.

For further information, please contact: Randy Klinger randyklinger@hotmail.com

SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE
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To contribute to the Global
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